

HOUSE BILL 988

By Lamar

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 33; Title 37; Title 56; Title 63; Title 71 and Chapter 1052 of the Public Acts of 2018, relative to providing mental health counseling to juveniles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) The department shall provide to each child in a detention or shelter care facility authorized by § 37-1-116 mental health counseling not less than once per week.

(b) Mental health counseling provided pursuant to subsection (a) must be performed by a mental health professional who is licensed or certified under title 68.

(c) A mental health professional providing mental health counseling services to a child under this section shall consider the findings and recommendations of any validated risk and needs assessment of the child performed pursuant to § 37-1-164, or any individualized case plan developed by the department for the child pursuant to § 37-1-173.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it.